

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 01207 01 OF 02 291119Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 DEAE-00 SNM-02 COME-00 MCT-01
/076 W

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R 290903Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3403
INFO CINCPAC
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
DEA BANGKOK
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL MANDALAY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 1207

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ENGR, EFIN, CH BM
SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #16, APRIL 23-29

CONTENTS

1. NE WIN IN CHINA
2. BCP ATTACKS MOMEIK
3. ORGANIZATION OF 66TH DIVISION COMPLETE
4. AMERICAN FIRMS OBTAIN LARGE CONTRACTS FROM MOC
5. PETROLEUM AND MINING OFFICIALS TO TRAVEL ABROAD
6. BOMB EXPLODED IN RANGOON
7. BUDGET COMMISSION FORMED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RANGOO 01207 01 OF 02 291119Z

8. NARCOTICS - ARRESTS AND SEIZURES
END CONTENTS

1. NE WIN IN CHINA (LOU)
PRESIDENT AND MRS. NE WIN ARRIVED IN PEKING ON
APRIL 27 FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT AT THE INVITATION OF
THE PRC (WEEKA #15, ITEM 1). THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED

BY A LARGE PARTY OF GUB OFFICIALS AND WIVES INCLUDING COUNCIL OF STATE MEMBERS U THAUNG KYI AND DR. MAUNG MAUNG, FOREIGN MINISTER U HLA PHONE, DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL KYAW HTIN, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY (2) COL. MAUNG CHO, AND NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE BUREAU CHIEF U LAY MAUNG. AT A BANQUET HOSTED BY PRC VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN ON THE SAME DAY, NEW WIN DELIVERED WHAT IS IN EFFECT, AN ABBREVIATED VERSION OF HIS BANQUET SPEECH DURING THE NOVEMBER 1975 VISIT TO THE PRC. BOTH SPEECHES CALLED FOR DIFFERENCES TO BE RESOLVED BY FRANK AND PATIENT DISCUSSION, MENTIONED THE BURMA-CHINA BOUNDARY SETTLEMENT AND EMPHASIZED THE TWO NATIONS' DESIRE FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE.

2. BCP ATTACKS MOMEIK (CONF)

ON APRIL 11 A BCP FORCE ESTIMATED TO NUMBER BETWEEN 300 AND 500 ATTACKED A BURMA ARMY REGIMENT (EQUIVALENT TO A BATTALION) HEADQUARTERS UNIT AND SECURITY ELEMENTS AT MOMEIK, A SHAN STATE TOWN LOCATED ABOUT 135 MILES NORTH OF MANDALAY ON THE EDGE OF THE IRRAWADDY PLAIN. AS NEARLY AS CAN BE MADE OUT (DETAILS ARE STILL SEEPING IN), THE ATTACK WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS; THE PRINCIPAL BURMA ARMED FORCES REACTION WAS APPARENTLY AIR ATTACKS WHICH CAUSED SOME DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES TO BCP FORCE AS IT WITHDREW AFTER HOLDING MOMEIK FOR AT LEAST SIX HOURS. (RANGOON 1202)

3. ORGANIZATION OF 66TH DIVISION COMPLETE (CONF)

THE FINAL TWO BURMA REGIMENTS OF THE RECENTLY FORMED
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 RANGOO 01207 01 OF 02 291119Z

66TH DIVISION HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED, BRINGING TO TEN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ASSIGNED REGIMENTS (A BURMESE REGIMENT IS EQUIVALENT TO A US BATTALION).

4. AMERICAN FIRMS OBTAIN LARGE CONTRACTS FROM MOC (UNC)

THE MYANMA OIL CORPORATION AND CONTINENTAL-EMSCO CORPORATION ON APRIL 26 SIGNED A CONTRACT FOR SALE OF AN 18,000 FOOT DRILLING RIG (WEEK A #14, ITEM 5) FOR A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY \$6.5 MILLION. WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED THAT THE TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF FOUR MEDIUM DRILLING RIGS WILL GO TO GARDNER-DENVER CORPORATION AT A TOTAL OF \$9.9 MILLION. THIS CONTRACT IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED NEXT WEEK.

5. PETROLEUM AND MINING OFFICIALS TO TRAVEL ABROAD (LOU)

THE DIRECTOR OF THE MYANMA OIL CORPORATION U KYAW ZA WILL MAKE A TRIP TO FRANCE AND ALGERIA BEGINNING MAY 8. THE EXACT PURPOSE OF THIS VISIT IS NOT KNOWN, BUT WE ARE INFORMED THAT EXPENSES ARE BEING PAID BY A FRENCH

PETROLEUM FIRM. IN ADDITION, THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MINING CORPORATION (3) WILL TRAVEL TO YUGOSLAVIA IN EARLY MAY TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE FOR THE MONYWA COPPER PROJECT.

6. BOMB EXPLODED IN RANGOON (LOU)
AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DETONATED THE EVENING OF APRIL 27 NEAR THE RANGOON WATERFRONT, REPORTEDLY KILLING ONE PERSON. THE BLAST SEEMS TO BE ONE OF THE CONTINUING SERIES OF INEFFECTUAL TERRORIST ATTACKS ALLEGEDLY STAGED BY THE PRO-U NU PEOPLE'S PATRIOTIC PARTY.

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 01207 02 OF 02 291123Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 1207

7. BUDGET COMMISSION FORMED (UNCL)
THE GUB STATE COUNCIL RECENTLY FORMED A STATE BUDGET COMMISSION WHICH IS EMPOWERED TO SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, BUDGET FORMS, FINANCIAL RULES AND NATIONAL INCOME CALCULATIONS. THE COMMISSION CAN ALSO RECOMMEND PROCEDURAL CHANGES AIMED AT ENHANCING THE SOCIALIST ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND CORRECTING INEFFICIENCIES.

THE 12-MEMBER COMMISSION IS HEADED BY COUNCIL OF STATE MEMBER DR. MAUNG LWIN AND INCLUDES THE PRESENT MINISTER OF PLANNING AND FINANCE U THAN SEIN AND FORMER PLANNING AND FINANCE MINISTER U LWIN. JOINT SECRETARIES TO THE COMMISSION ARE U KHIN MAUNG MYA, SECRETARY OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL PLANNING AFFAIRS, AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RANGOO 01207 02 OF 02 291123Z

DR. MAUNG SHEIN, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND FINANCE.

COMMENT: ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL IN THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND FINANCE, A NUMBER OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES COMPLAINED THAT THEY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE STATE BUDGET AS PRESENTED AT THE RECENT SESSION, AND THE MAIN FUNCTION OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE TO SIMPLIFY AND INTERPRET FUTURE BUDGETS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ASSEMBLY MEMBERS. THE INCLUSION OF U LWIN ON THE COMMISSION HAS LED TO ADDITION SPECULATION THAT HE WILL RETAIN SOME INFLUENCE OVER GUB ECONOMIC POLICY. HOWEVER, HE IS MERELY ONE OF 12 MEMBERS IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN ORGANIZATION OF MIOR IMPORTANCE.

8. NARCOTICS - ARRESTS AND SEIZURES (UNCL)

BURMESE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION TEAMS WERE CREDITED WITH TWO MORE LARGE OPIUM SEIZURES. CUSTOMS OFFICERS IN HSIPAW ARRESTED TWO TRUCKERS WHO WERE ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE 86 KILOGRAMS OF RAW OPIUM INTO MANDALAY. A GOVERNMENT SEARCH PARTY IN SAGAING DIVISION RAIDED A SUSPECTED OPIUM DEALERS HOUSE AND SEIZED 55 KILOGRAMS OF OPIUM; TWO PERSONS WERE ARRESTED. IN RANGOON, POLICE ARRESTED ONE PERSON FOR POSSESSION OF SEVEN SMALL PACKETS OF HEROIN.
OSBORN

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